

# The GARzette



The Official Newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
December 2017 <http://www.gars.org/> Volume 26, Issue 12

Congratulations to the GARS 2017 Ham of the Year!



John Davis, WB4QDX

# Message from the President

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, or Festivus for the rest of us!

The GARS holiday party was a blast. It was well attended (about 65 folks there) and the food and entertainment were great. A short business meeting was held and the special committee's nomination of

Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN for an Honorary Lifetime Membership in GARS was approved. In other business, the ham of the year, John Davis WB4QDX was presented a trophy

recognizing the hard work for and his support of GARS during the year. The evening was made even better when Mike Smith, KK4KHS presented GARS with a check in thanks for our support during the Stone Mountain Hamfest. Finally, a special thank you to Sandy Jackson, KJ4DRO and Kevin Highsmith, KK4WOG and the various elves who made sure that everything happened.

What are you asking Santa for? I bet we could all use higher gain antennas, more sunspots, better receivers, and quieter locations. Lacking some or all of those things, there are still many ways to enjoy the hobby. Techfest is a great way to see many of the technical aspects of the hobby demonstrated, to ask questions and to find resources that will get your year off to a flying start. Techfest is FREE! A chili and hotdog lunch are FREE! There are hourly drawings for door prizes and there is a raffle for an FT991 radio. Mark your calendar January 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Gwinnett Medical Resource Center. [www.techfest.info](http://www.techfest.info) for more info and to purchase raffle tickets – no standing in line! Contact person for the



“The GARS holiday party was a blast. It was well attended (about 65 folks there) and the food and entertainment were great.”

event is Neal, [W4HNG@arrl.net](mailto:W4HNG@arrl.net) if you have a question that isn't answered on the web.

Set your thermometers back 20 or 30 degrees and get ready for the dog show, February 1 through February 4. There is a volunteer sign-up sheet on the GARS website. It's a lot of fun and one of the major fundraisers for GARS and ARES. I'm looking forward to a hot dog from Woody's already.

Each year GARS makes a donation to the ARRL to

fund a scholarship. The funds for that donation come from donations and the sale of drinks at our meetings. Once again, I am looking for a volunteer to purchase the water, soda, and ice to keep the cooler going. Let me know if you will help. [ND4V@arrl.net](mailto:ND4V@arrl.net)

As they say on the CW traffic nets, I'm about QRU for this month. Again, I wish you a safe holiday season and a Happy New Year.

73, *Mike Weathers*, ND4V

***"It is not the class of license the Amateur holds, but the class of the Amateur that holds the license."***

[Author Unknown]



# GARS December Meeting and Workshop

## GARS 2017 Christmas Party

*Friday, December 1, 2016*

*Doors open: 6:30 pm Dinner: 7:00 pm*

(No Meeting or Workshop in December)



**Sports Aviation Complex—Hangar 1  
690 Airport Road  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045**

[Directions to EAA Hangar](#)



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### **GARS Communications**

<u>2 Meter Repeaters</u> 147.075(+) MHz Tone 82.5 147.255(+) MHz Tone 107.2	<u>6 Meter Repeater</u> 53.110 (-1 MHz) No Tone (Offline for Maintenance)
<u>1.25 Meter Repeater</u> 224.580(-) MHz Tone 100.0, 1.6 MHz Offset	<b>Other Resources:</b> <u>APRS</u> 144.390 -- 1200 Baud W4GR
<u>70 Cm Repeaters</u> 444.525(+) MHz Tone 82.5 442.100(+) MHz Tone 100 442.325(+) MHz Tone 100	<u>D-Star</u> WD4STR 145.060 + (1.4 MHz) 440.550 + (5 MHz)

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If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word or rich text (.rtf) or text or HTML format or by e-mail to [editor@gars.org](mailto:editor@gars.org). Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via e-mail to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the Amateur Radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The *GARzette* articles by other Amateur Radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and *The GARzette*.

The *GARzette* is published each month with the assistance of Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV who prints copies for distribution at meetings, etc. and Dave Bruse, W4DTR, who distributes the news letter electronically.

Deadline for submissions is the 28th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For additional information view our Website at: <http://www.gars.org>  
Newsletter Editor: [editor@gars.org](mailto:editor@gars.org) Bill Eggers—WB2RIS 470-238-9603





# Member QRZ Pages

For a few months we will be featuring the QRZ page of various members of GARS.

This month we are featuring the QRZ page of :

## N4MEP - Michael Parrott

When you click on the link below you will find this picture.

<http://qrz.com/lookup/N4MEP>

Read the notes and get to know him better. You'll be glad you did.

Here is an excerpt from the page:

I got interested in amateur radio way back when I was a kid, but never got my license because of the code requirement. I did build a few crystal sets back then (didn't we all?), but never really got started until 2011 (at age 47) when I finally got my Technicians ticket and immediately upgraded to General. Passed Amateur Extra in March 2012.

I like all things science related and enjoy Astronomy; I have an Orion SkyView Pro 8" reflector. Unfortunately my area has a high amount of light pollution so viewing is limited most of the times. I also enjoy all kinds of gaming - war games, board games, card games. But, strangely, I do not like computer gaming.

Watch for another featured GARS member QRZ page in next month's GARzette!



## News, Press Releases, & General Interest

### Start Planning for Upcoming Special Event Stations

If you like to work special event stations, some are scheduled as a series of unique activations throughout the year. One such example is NASA On The Air (NOTA, see Page 10 in this GARzette), The first activation is the 45th anniversary of Apollo 17 on December 11, 2017. Another example was the 2017 KB7QPS Air, Space and Technology Operating Event. I didn't notice the announcement of this series of events until after the first activation in late January (N6R, 3 Generations of Mars Rovers).

One such series of events that I like to work, but have not recently managed to complete, are the activations of W9IMS during the 3 major races at Indianapolis Motor Speedway (The Grand Prix of Indianapolis - May 7-13, the Indianapolis 500 - May 22-28 and the Brickyard 400 - July 17-23). The QSL cards and certificate are really nice!

With the creation of National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) in 2016, I regret not starting chasing parks earlier, and especially not planning my own activations (and not getting a decent mobile HF rig set up in my car) until late November. It was quite an experience during those activations, where the pileup is calling you, instead of me being one of many in the pileup calling someone else...

ARRL's International Grid Chase (see Page 9 in this GARzette) shows promise for a year long event, and the results are reset at the end of every month. If you do not start the chase until after the end of January, for example, then you miss out on having contacts from that month count towards the final score tallied up at the end of the year.

Two good resources for finding these events are the weekly Bulletin published at [DX-world.net](http://DX-world.net), and the ARRL Special Event web page (with a search feature) at <http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>. Good hunting in 2018!

73, *Bill* WB2RIS



# GARS Christmas Party





# Upcoming GARS Events for 2018



TechFest is an ARRL-sanctioned **Hamfest** and a **show-and-tell** of the various facets of *amateur radio* and **Chili Cook-off!**

*It's all free, no entry fee and a free lunch!*

**TechFest will be held JANUARY 20, 2018** at:  
Gwinnett Medical Center's Resource Center,  
665 Duluth Highway (GA-120), Lawrenceville, GA 30046



Door prize drawings are held throughout the day. You must be present to win.

Each year, we raffle off a large prize. You don't have to be present to win this raffle. Grand Prize for this year's raffle is a Yaesu FT-991! To purchase raffle tickets in advance, go to <http://adatab.duckdns.org/tickets.cfm>

Doors open at 9:00 AM, Prize Raffle and last Door Prize drawing around 1:30 PM.  
We will hold VE Testing Sessions starting at 9:00 AM.

For more info, visit [www.techfest.info](http://www.techfest.info).

If you wish to volunteer, sign up by clicking on the link in the "TechFest Volunteers" section at [www.gars.org](http://www.gars.org)

## Hello GARS and ARES,

I hope everyone is keeping warm. Our Dog Show Fundraiser is coming up on February 1 - 4, 2018.

Why do we need to raise funds? To keep the repeaters going and to maintain the meeting locations and donations to events. Instead of asking members for money all the time, we do this fund raiser twice a year. It brings in enough with dues to cover most of the expenses for the Techfest, Field Day, JOTA, and maybe some other events.

Even with a safety net in the treasury, we need to keep adding to it. If we have an event that requires a tower climb and hardware on a public tower, it could be close to 10,000.00 dollars.

ARES uses the funds to outfit the trailer and help with expenses at events.

This is a major source for their funding.

ARES is a service organization and has no dues.

There are 2 shifts everyday. We need 10 people every shift everyday minimum.

Please consider working at least 1 shift or more when you can.

The Cherokee Rose Cluster dog show makes a donation to both organizations for our presence onsite.

If you wish to volunteer, sign up by clicking on the link in the "Fundraiser Volunteers" section at [www.gars.org](http://www.gars.org)



Thank You and 73,  
*David*, KA4KKF  
Dog Show Fundraiser





# Beginner's Corner

## Your HT as a Go Kit

OK, so you got that shiny new handy-talkie (HT) after (or even before) you were licensed. Your radio is your ticket to help out in emergencies, or just to take the radio out and have fun in a new location. Before you go anywhere with that new (or old) radio, it would be good to have a "Go Kit" with enough accessories to sustain your operation.

To start out, you might consider a better antenna for your HT. The stock antenna (better known as a "rubber duckie") is very inefficient. With a radio that puts out 5 watts, usually only three watts leave the antenna. Be sure to get one that fits your radio. You can order one on line or check out the local ham radio stores. Most radios have what is called an "SMA" connector. Chinese radios usually have what is called a "reverse SMA" connector. Be sure to get the right one.

Next consider a second battery for your radio. Having an extra battery on hand should ensure that you never run out of power to operate your radio. The store you bought the radio should be able to help you get a spare. Ask any ham and they will probably tell you about the time their HT battery failed. Having a spare means you will be able to stay on the air a lot longer. By the way, be sure to keep it charged!

External antennas will boost your transmission and reception. The author's first external antenna was a magnetic mount antenna (dual band; costs around \$25.00) that was placed on a pizza pan. It gave better reception and allowed me to get my signal out farther. Be sure to get it as high as possible. When working in the VHF/UHF range, height is all-important.

There are other external antennas that are good for portable use. One is one called a J-pole. You can make one (usually one band only) or purchase a commercially made one. Some of these allow for both VHF and UHF. Get a suitable coaxial (coax) cable and a way to get it up into a convenient tree and you are good to go. Of course, a good permanently mounted antenna for your home is not a bad idea either! Be sure and check to see if you will need an adapter cable to connect the coax to your radio. There is a "SMA to SO-239" adaptor cable that will work with most radios. Consult your dealer.

When using your radio out of doors, it is a good to be considerate of others who may not want to hear you talking on the radio. Purchasing a headset for your HT is a good idea. Yes, someone will always hear you taking, but they will not be able to hear the station you are talking to you. You can get a simple headset or a more elaborate (and expensive) one, depending on your budget and needs. There are what are called "speaker mikes" that allow you to clip your radio to your belt and be able to speak and listen. You can clip the speaker mike near your head. Some of them even have an earphone jack. They are pretty cool. Some newer HTs even have Bluetooth capability. Any one of these options allow you to talk in a crowd or in a situation that demands quiet.

You will need some kind of container to put everything in. This is the "bag" part of a go-kit or go-bag. This is not a "one size fits all" item. Get a bag or container that works for you. Some hams put everything into a small suitcase. I have small bags for most of my radios and a larger bag for my main radio. Look around the internet or ask fellow hams for advice. My bags hold everything pertaining to the radio assigned to it.

Happy go-ing!

73 de *David Harden*, KJ4CMY





# Why CW Works For Me

**By Wayne Burdick N6KR (Co-Founder of Elecraft)**

I find that CW has many practical and engaging aspects that I just don't get with computer-mediated modes like FT8. You'd think I'd be burned out on CW by now, over 45 years since I was first licensed, but no, I'm still doin' it :)

Yes, FT8 (etc.) is a no-brainer when, despite poor conditions, your goal is to log as many contacts as possible with as many states or countries as possible. It's so streamlined and efficient that the whole process is readily automated. (If you haven't read enough opinions on that, see "The mother of all FT8 threads" on QRZ.com, for example.)

But back to CW. Here's why it works for me. YMMV.

CW feels personal and visceral, like driving a sports car rather than taking a cab. As with a sports car, there are risks. You can get clobbered by larger vehicles (QRM). Witness road range ("UP 2!"). Fall into a pothole (QSB). Be forced to drive through rain or snow (QRN).

With CW, like other forms of human conversation, you can affect your own style. Make mistakes. Joke about it.

CW is a skill that bonds operators together across generations and nations. A language, more like pidgin than anything else, with abbreviations and historical constructs and imperialist oddities. A curious club anyone can join. (At age 60 and able to copy 50 WPM on a good day, I may qualify as a Nerd Mason of some modest order, worthless in any other domain but of value in a contest.)

With very simple equipment that anyone can build, such as a high-power single-transistor oscillator, you can transmit a CW signal. I had very little experience with electronics when I was 14 and built an oscillator that put out maybe 100 mW. Just twisted the leads of all those parts together and keyed the collector supply--a 9-volt battery. With this simple circuit on my desk, coupled to one guy wire of our TV antenna mast, I worked a station 150 miles away and was instantly hooked on building things. And on QRP. I'm sure the signal was key-clicky and had lots of harmonics. I've spent a lifetime making such things work better, but this is where it started.

Going even further down the techno food chain, you can "send" CW by whistling, flashing a lamp, tapping on someone's leg under a table in civics class, or pounding a wrench on the inverted hull of an upside-down U.S. war vessel, as happened at Pearl Harbor. Last Saturday at an engineering club my son belongs to, a 9-year-old demonstrated an Arduino Uno flashing HELLO WORLD in Morse on an LED. The other kids were impressed, including my son, who promptly wrote a version that sends three independent Morse streams on three LEDs. A mini-pileup. His first program.

Finally, to do CW you don't always need a computer, keyboard, mouse, monitor, or software. Such things are invaluable in our daily lives, but for me, shutting down everything but the radio is the high point of my day. The small display glows like a mystic portal into my personal oyster, the RF spectrum. Unless I crank up the power, there's no fan noise. Tuning the knob slowly from the bottom end of the band segment to the top is a bit like fishing my favorite stream, Taylor Creek, which connects Fallen Leaf Lake to Lake Tahoe. Drag the line across the green, sunlit pool. See what hits. Big trout? DX. Small trout? Hey, it's still a fish, and a QSO across town is still a QSO. Admire it, then throw it back in.

(BTW: You now know why the Elecraft K3, K3S, KX2, and KX3 all have built-in RTTY and PSK data modes that allow transmit via the keyer paddle and receive on the rig's display. We decided to make these data modes conversational...like CW.)

Back to 40 meters....

73,

Wayne  
N6KR



Source: Posting to Yahoo group emailed to GARzette editor



# The ARRL International Grid Chase

A new and exciting operating event will kick off on January 1, 2018, at 0000 UTC (New Year's Eve in US time zones), when the [ARRL International Grid Chase](#) gets under way. The year-long event hopes to build on the success of the highly successful 2016 National Parks on the Air (NPOTA). The objective is to work stations on *any* band (*except* 60 meters) in as many different Maidenhead grid squares as possible, and then upload your log data to ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW). [Registration](#) is free, and it costs nothing to use LoTW. Many hams are familiar with grid squares from the VHF/UHF and satellite realms, and everyone lives in one. ARRL's VUCC is based on grid squares, and some contests on HF, as well as on VHF and UHF, also use them as a scoring factor.

John Morris, G4ANB, came up with the locator system, which the VHF Working Group adopted in 1980 at a meeting in Maidenhead, England — thus the term “Maidenhead grid square.” The system divvies up the entire globe into 324 fields, each containing 100 grid squares 1° latitude by 2° longitude in size. With 32,400 potential grid squares, it's not likely that anyone will run out of challenges, even though some grid squares are surrounded entirely by water, are in areas that are uninhabited, or are difficult to access.

If you don't know your grid square, David Levine, K2DSL, has an [online calculator](#). Just enter a postal address, ZIP code or a call sign, and his site will tell you the grid square for that location. For example, enter “W1AW” and the site will return “FN31pr.” For the purposes of the ARRL International Grid Chase, though, just the two initial letters and the two numbers that follow (e.g., FN31) are all you need to know.

Once you get active in the chase and start uploading your log data, each new grid square contact confirmed through LoTW will count toward your [monthly total](#). Getting started is simple: Turn on the radio and call CQ or “CQ Grid Chase,” or listen for others doing the same. Make the contact, exchange grid squares, log it, and move on to another. At the end of each month, your totals on the Grid Chase Leader Board will reset to zero, although the system retains all monthly data to determine top finishers in various categories at the end of the year.

*Any* contact you make in 2018 can count for your Chase score; it doesn't have to involve an exchange of grid squares. As long as the other operators participate in LoTW, you'll get credit automatically when they upload their logs. This means that contest contacts will also count, as will contacts with special event stations, or other on-air activity that uses LoTW to confirm contacts.

Some radio amateurs live in sparsely populated grid squares, and if you're one of those, you could find yourself handling a pileup! Expeditions to hard-to-reach or rare grid squares will undoubtedly evolve. You also can travel to one of those grid squares yourself. Some vehicle or hand-held GPS units can be set to display when you are in a particular grid square. Apps are available for smartphones or tablets, such as *Ham Square* for iOS devices or *HamGPS* for Android devices.

There are no restrictions on modes or bands, as long as they are legal. Satellite contacts are valid for the Chase. The event is open to *all* radio amateurs.

## Awards

As all contacts are uploaded to LoTW, participants may use their contacts toward other [ARRL awards](#), in addition to the overall monthly and annual Grid Chase recognitions. These other ARRL awards include the grid-based VHF-UHF Century Club (VUCC) and Fred Fish Memorial Award, as well as Worked All States (WAS), WAS Triple Play, DX Century Club (DXCC), and Worked All Continents (WAC).

Complete details of the ARRL International Grid Chase will appear in the December 2017 issue of *QST*. The digital edition is available on Friday, November 10.

For more information, [contact](#) the ARRL Contest Branch.

Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/announcing-the-arrl-international-grid-chase>





# NASA On The Air

## Year-Long NASA On The Air Event Kicks off on December 11

The Amateur Radio clubs at National Aeronautics and Space Administration ([NASA](#)) centers around the US have invited the Amateur Radio community to join the NASA On The Air ([NOTA](#)) special event. NOTA gets under way in December 2017 and continues through December 2018. In addition to being the agency's 60th anniversary, 2018 will mark 50 years since NASA orbited the first human around the moon, and 20 years since the first elements of the International Space Station (ISS) were launched into low-Earth orbit.

Starting on Monday, December 11, 2017 (UTC), Amateur Radio club stations at various NASA centers and facilities will be on the air with special event operations to celebrate these monumental achievements, as well as current milestones. Some clubs will offer commemorative QSL cards, and a special certificate will be available indicating the number of NASA club stations worked on various bands and modes.

"We plan to have a web-based system for you to check your points total and download a printable certificate at the end of the event in December 2018," the NASA announcement said. "Points will be awarded for each center worked on each band and mode (phone, CW, digital, and 'space' modes — satellites, meteor scatter, EME, ISS APRS)." That would, of course, include contacts with any of the Amateur Radio stations on the ISS.

Key anniversaries during NOTA include the 45th anniversary of Apollo 17 on December 11, 2017, which kicks off the event; NASA's founding on July 29, 1958; the 20th anniversary of the ISS first element launch on November 20, 1998; the 20th anniversary of the ISS Node 1 Launch on December 4, 1998, and the 50th anniversary of Apollo 8 — launched on December 21, 1968, and returned on December 27 — marking the end of the event.

Ham radio clubs at various NASA facilities will sponsor their own special events to commemorate and celebrate specific events.

"We hope to be on the air for casual contacts and contests as well. All contacts with NASA club stations will count toward your total," the announcement said. "QSL cards can be requested from each club you work and details will be on the individual QRZ.com profile page for each club call sign."

[More information](#) is on the NASA On The Air website. Participating Amateur Radio clubs, and the NASA On The Air (NOTA) event are independent of — and not officially sponsored by — NASA. — Thanks to [Rob Suggs](#), KB5EZ, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center Amateur Radio Club (NN4SA), and [Kevin Zari](#), KK4YEL, NASA Kennedy Space Center Amateur Radio Club (NIKSC).

Center/Facility	Designator	Call Sign	Location
Ames Research Center	ARC	NA6MF	California
Armstrong Flight Research Center	AFRC	NA6SA	California
Glenn Research Center	GRC	NA8SA	Ohio
Goddard Space Flight Center	GSFC	WA3NAN	Maryland
International Space Station	ISS	NA1SS, etc.	Earth orbit
Jet Propulsion Laboratory	JPL	W6VIO	California
Johnson Space Center	JSC	W5RRR	Texas
Kennedy Space Center	KSC	N1KSC	Florida
Langley Research Center	LARC	KG4NJA	Virginia
Marshall Space Flight Center	MSFC	NN4SA	Alabama
Stennis Space Center	SSC	TBD	Mississippi
Wallops Flight Facility	WFF	W4WFF	Virginia
White Sands Complex	WSC	N5BL	New Mexico



Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/year-long-nasa-on-the-air-event-kicks-off-on-december-11>



# Net Managers Corner

## Monday Night 2 Meter “Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net”

### **GARS NEEDS MEMBERS TO SERVE AS NET CONTROL STATIONS!**

**GARS is a great Amateur Radio service club** and we have the membership and awards to prove it. Our club is a very busy and active club and we use the Monday night net to get the information out to our members. Weekly participation is needed to make our net function well. There is only a small group of very dedicated people that make the net happen each week, and we need more members to volunteer to serve as Net Control Stations (NCS) on a rotating basis.

Out of almost 300 members, there are only fifteen primary people who serve as NCS for the GARS net every Monday night. In no particular order, they are:

Norm - WA4ZXV	Kyle - W4KDA	Mitch - N0DIM
Ruth - KM4LAO	Hal - W4IGE	Don - KW4AL
Ray - N4GYN	Sandy - KJ4DRO	John - WB4QDX
Bill - KK4AUA	David - KK4KAF	Kevin - KK4WOG
Chuck - KK4TKJ	Mike - KK4KHS	Donna - KM4FMW

As GARS Net Manager (Chuck KK4TKJ), I really need 26 people to fill NCS positions. I do plan and post the schedule months in advance. Any conditions will be accommodated that you as a rotating NCS need to place on the scheduling of your duties. If your plans change, I can make adjustments for the schedule to work, and I will make those changes happen as soon as I am notified of a problem. As Net Manager, I also send out reminders each week to let the NCS scheduled know he or she is NCS for the next Monday night net. In short, serving as a rotating NCS is a small duty but a great contribution to the club.

The “Want, Swap, Sell Information Net” begins promptly at 19:30 every Monday night and runs about 45 minutes. As a scheduled NCS, you will request the assistance of a volunteer alternate NCS each time you have Net Control. Your simple duties will be to tune in to the GARS repeater, read the script, take a few notes and forward the information to me for record keeping.

Please lend a hand and contact me at [KK4TKJ@arrl.net](mailto:KK4TKJ@arrl.net). Sign up to help support the effort that makes GARS the great club that it is.

73 and see you on the Nets!

*Chuck McCord*, KK4TKJ

GARS Net Manager



# GARS Membership Page

## New GARS Members in November

**Charles Allport (WS4TOT)**  
**James Burns (KX4HA)**  
**William Goldberg (W0KIH)**  
**Robert Prisant (KN4GZG)**  
**Courtney Wagner (KN4GZI)**  
**Emily Wagner (KN4GZJ)**  
**Richard Woodis (KN4HKJ)**

**New Members: 7**

**Total Members as of December 1, 2017**  
**300**

**Join GARS members for our  
weekly breakfast gathering at  
7:30 AM most Saturdays**  
  
**at**

**Golden Corral**  
**2155 Riverside Parkway**  
**Lawrenceville, GA 30043**

**([Directions](#))**

**The following members are  
celebrating birthdays  
in December:**

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**  
**From All of Us at GARS**

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**David Adcock (KA4KKF)**  
**Richard Atkin (KJ4ZTY)**  
**Steven Back (WB2OGY)**  
**Joseph Biddle (AD4PZ)**  
**Nicholas Doemland (AB4CQ)**  
**Barry Greene (KM4RVY)**  
**Franklin Haynes (KV4SP)**  
**David Johnston (KM4UVI)**  
**Jerome Lofton (WD4CWG)**  
**Michel Matteau (N0DIM)**  
**Charles McCord (KK4TKJ)**  
**Earl Meggison (KC4CCE)**  
**Pamela Meridy (WB1AKQ)**  
**Linda Mison (KD6KJL)**  
**Jack Perry (K6JLP)**  
**Ralph Pickwick (KJ4CNC)**  
**Jere Sandidge (K4FUM)**  
**Norman Schklar (WA4ZXV)**  
**Thomas Whalen (KE4UXW)**  
**Walter Wharton (KM4OND)**  
**Amy Woodrick (KE4IKF)**

## GARS MEMBERSHIP

Your current GARS membership status is shown in the monthly newsletter e-mail towards the bottom of the message.

To become a GARS member, or to renew your GARS membership, please visit our website—<http://www.gars.org>

To make changes to your GARS membership (moved, new e-mail address, new phone number, etc.), please e-mail the Membership Committee - [membership@gars.org](mailto:membership@gars.org)

You can **renew or update** your Amateur Radio license information with the FCC at their website for free <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

To update your ARRL information, please visit their website - <http://www.arrl.org>

Membership Chair: Karen Albritton, KI4HPP  
Committee Members: Dave Bruse, W4DTR, Pam Meridy, WB1AKQ



## Venture Crew 73 has been discontinued due to lack of participation.

Venture Crew 73 served youth between 14 and 21 years old from 1999 until 2017.

Venture Crews are part of the Boy Scouts of America.

Venture Crew 73 was chartered by the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society (GARS) and was coed.

Venture Crew 73 was a youth run organization, which means that the Crew President and other youths planned the Crew's outings and activities each month.

Activities included:

- ♦ *Camping*
- ♦ *Hiking*
- ♦ *Horseback Riding*
- ♦ *Shooting Sports*

Crew activities mixed high adventure and the use of Amateur Radio.

If you want the Crew to rise again:

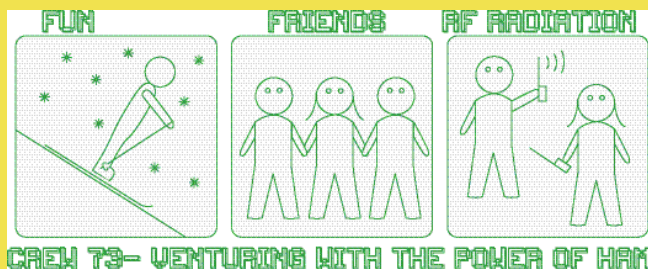
- ♦ Find five or more youths that want to continue the tradition;
- ♦ Either show up at the next GARS meeting or contact:

**Steve Back, WB2OGY**





















Venture Crew 73 Committee Chairman

Phone: 770-712-9069




E-mail: [committeechair@venturecrew73.org](mailto:committeechair@venturecrew73.org)



## GARS Officers and Committee Chairs

Mike Weathers President	ND4V	
Rick Cobb Vice President	N4XYY	
Leland Ford Secretary	K9SDR	
Sid Weaver Treasurer	N4NQ	
Paul Kelley Program Manager	W4KLY	
Karen Albritton Membership Chair	KI4HPP	
Dave Bruse VE Team Leader	W4DTR	
David Adcock Webmaster and Field Day Chair	KA4KKF	
Dorothy Jubon Public Information Officer	N2DLJ	
Ralph Pickwick Apparel Manager and Education Chair	KJ4CNC	
Neal Gilchrist TechFest Chair	W4HNG	
Bill Eggers GARzette Editor	WB2RIS	
Bill Cherepy W4GR Trustee	WB4WTN	
Eddie Foust Repeater Chair	WD4JEM	
Mike Weathers WAS-Checker and Historian	ND4V	
Chuck McCord Net Manager	KK4TKJ	
Mike Swiderski Technical / RFI Advisor	K4HBI	
Mitch Matteau Winter Field Day Chair	N0DIM	
Pam Meridy GA QSO Party Chair	WB1AKQ	
Kyle Albritton Multimedia Chair	W4KDA	

## DIRECTORS

Kyle Albritton	W4KDA	
David Adcock	KA4KKF	
Norm Schklar	WA4ZXV	



## EXTRA! EXTRA!

### Repeater Status

6M	currently down
147.075	Operational in Snellville
147.255	Operational in Snellville
224.580	Operational in Grayson
442.100	Operational at Goshen Springs
442.325	Operational in Buford
444.525	Operational in Snellville

Link remote receivers being added

## NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

President Mike Weathers, ND4V called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. First time visitors, new members, and ticket upgrades were acknowledged. Introductions were given. Attendance: 66

### General Business

Treasurer Sid Weaver, N4NQ, gave the treasure's report. Motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed by unanimous consent. Pam Meridy, WB1AKQ, gave the membership report. GARS now has 301 members.

### Event Recaps and General Updates

Hamfest Chair, Mike Smith, KK4KHS, reported there was a very good turnout and that they had a lot of positive feedback from ARRL speakers and vendors.

Venture Crew 73 leader, Steve Back, WB2OGY reported that there will be no venture crew group this coming year due to lack of interest.

GARSware Chair, Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC reported that the person doing our embroidery work will not be available in December so get your orders in right away if you want anything before December.

### Upcoming Events

Dave Bruse, W4DTR reported that this month's training workshop will be held Tuesday November 21 at the EAA hanger. Facility will open at 6:30PM and meeting starts at 7:00PM. It will be on Power Pole connectors. Bring your radio cables to have connectors added. If you have a Power Pole kit bring them to demonstrate and help others. If you have any questions related to ham radio, be there to get them answered.

Christmas Party Chair, Sandy Jackson, KJ4DRO reported that the Christmas party will be held on December 1 at 6:30pm at the EAA hanger. We will eat around 7pm. Sign up on the website if you intend to come for dinner. Entertainment and a short business meeting will be held starting at 8pm. The Ham of the Year Award will be presented. There will be an ugly Christmas sweater contest as well.

Techfest Chair, Neal Gilchrist, W4HNG reminded everyone that Techfest is coming up January 20, 2018. It will be held again at the Gwinnett Medical Resource Center, 665 Duluth Highway, Lawrenceville. Everything is free except extra raffle tickets. There will be a chili cook-off and plenty of door prizes. Grand prize is a Yaesu FT-991.

### Program

Our speaker for November was our own Ray Bailey, N4GYN. He presented a very interesting program on digital modes. He was assisted by Vaden McDonald, NN4K, and Bill Eggers, WB2RIS, who demonstrated FT8, a new very popular HF digital mode that is taking the ham community by storm.

Meeting concluded at 8:43 pm.

73, *Leland*, K9SDR, Secretary



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(Now with easier to remember links!)



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Follow GARS on Twitter:  
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## ARRL CONTESTING INFO

### From ARRL Contest Calendar

> For more information click the links <

#### December 2017

- 1-3 [160 Meter](#)
- 9-10 [10 Meter](#)
- 17 [Rookie Roundup-CW](#)

### 2018

#### January 2018

- 1 [Straight Key Night](#)
- 6 [Kid's Day](#)
- 6-7 [RTTY Roundup](#)
- 17 [January VHF Sweepstakes](#)

#### February 2018

- 12-16 [School Club Roundup](#)
- 17-18 [International DX - CW](#)

#### March 2018

- 3-4 [International DX- Phone](#)

#### April 2018

- 15 [Rookie Roundup - Phone](#)

#### June 2018

- 9-11 [June VHF](#)
- 16 [Kid's Day](#)
- 23-24 [Field Day](#)

#### July 2018

- 9-11 [IARU HF World Championship](#)

#### August 2018

- 4-5 [222 MHz & Up Distance Contest](#)
- 18-19 [10 GHz and Up - Round 1](#)
- 19 [Rookie Roundup - RTTY](#)

#### September 2018

- 8-10 [September VHF](#)
- 15-16 [10 GHz & Up—Round 2](#)
- 29-30 [EME - 2.3 GHz And Up](#)

#### October 2018

- 15-19 [School Club Roundup](#)
- 27-28 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)

### For more information:

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

## HAMFEST CALENDAR

### 01/13/2018 | [Georgia State ARES Convention & Meeting](#)

Location: Forsyth, GA  
Type: ARRL Convention  
Sponsor: Georgia ARES  
Website: <http://gaares.org/>

### 01/20/2018 | [GARS TechFest Convention](#)

Location: Lawrenceville, GA

Type: ARRL Convention  
Sponsor: Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://techfest.info>



### 02/09/2018 | [Florida State Convention \(Orlando HamCation\)](#)

Location: Orlando, FL  
Type: ARRL Convention  
Sponsor: Orlando Amateur Radio Club  
Website: <http://www.hamcation.com>

### 03/02/2018 | [Alabama State Convention \(BirmingHAMfest 2018\)](#)

Location: Irondale, AL  
Type: ARRL Convention  
Sponsor: Birmingham Amateur Radio Club  
Website: <http://www.w4cue.com>

### 04/28/2018 | [Savannah Hamfest & Swap-meet](#)

Location: Savannah, GA  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Coastal Amateur Radio Society  
Website: [http://coastalamateurradiosociety.net/wpW4LHSblog/?page\\_id=731](http://coastalamateurradiosociety.net/wpW4LHSblog/?page_id=731)

### For more information:

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>

Note: When searching by division, remember some states adjacent to GA are in different divisions:

Southeastern: GA, AL, FL Delta: TN Roanoke: NC, SC



GARS Events Calendar for 2018		GARS Recurring Calendar
Dog Show Fundraisers      February 1-4, August Tech HamCrams              March, October TechFest ( <a href="http://www.techfest.info">www.techfest.info</a> )      January 20 Winter Field Day              January 27 & 28 Georgia QSO Party            April 14 & 15 North metro area Fox Hunt   April May Madness                  May (obviously!) Memorial Day Parade        May 28 ARC/KARC Hamfest          June 2 Field Day                        June 23 & 24 General HamCram              July JOTA                              October Maker Faire                    October Stone Mt. Hamfest            November Christmas Party                December		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December): Monthly club meeting</li> <li>♦ 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December): Monthly Training Workshop</li> <li>♦ 2nd Sunday of the Month at 2 pm: GARS Ham Exam Session Fire Station #24 2735 Mall of Georgia Blvd Buford, GA 30519</li> <li>♦ Every Monday at 7:30 pm: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater</li> <li>♦ Every Monday at 8:30 pm: ARES Training on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater</li> <li>♦ Most Saturdays at 7:30 am: GARS Weekly Breakfast Golden Corral Restaurant 2155 Riverside Parkway, Lawrenceville, GA 30043</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>January GARS Speaker</b> <b>TBD</b> Check <a href="http://www.GARS.org">www.GARS.org</a> for updates</p>		

#### GARS CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
November 26	November 27 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	November 28	November 29	November 30	1 GARS 2017 Christmas Party at EAA Hangar Doors open at 6:30	2 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
3	4 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	5	6	7	8	9 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
10 GARS VE Team Testing Session Starts at 2:00 pm Gwinnett Co. Fire Station #24	11 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	12 No GARS Meeting in December	13	14	15	16 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
17	18 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	19 No GARS Training Workshop in December	20	21	22	23 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
24 / 31	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27	28	29	30 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive

Metro Testing Sessions	Ham Exam Results	Metro Club Meetings
<p><i>GARS publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at <a href="http://www.arrl-ga.org">http://www.arrl-ga.org</a>.</i></p> <p><b>First Sunday, ODD Months</b> 2 pm (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, &amp; Nov) VEC: WCARS Braselton Public Utility Building 4986 Highway 53, Braselton, GA Roger Gibson, WB4T (770) 271-4210 or (770) 712-9560 <a href="mailto:w4rlg@bellsouth.net">w4rlg@bellsouth.net</a></p> <p><b>First Sunday, EVEN Months</b> 2 pm (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec) VEC: WCARS Hall County EOC 470 Crescent Dr. Gainesville, Ga. Perry Roper, KO4RD (770) 536-3056</p> <p><b>Second Saturday</b> 10:00 AM Alpharetta North Park, Adult Activities Center 13450 Cogburn Rd, Alpharetta, GA 30004 Ian Kahn, KM4IK E-mail: <a href="mailto:km4ik.ian@gmail.com">km4ik.ian@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Second Saturday, ODD Months</b> VEC: ARRL 8:30 a.m. GMC Community Ctr 5325 Leon St. Stone Mountain, GA Frank Haynes, KV4SP (678) 467-3712</p> <p><b>Second Sunday</b> VEC: W5YI 2 pm Fire Station #24 Mall of Georgia Boulevard Buford, GA 30519 Contact: Dave Bruse, W4DTR E-mail: <a href="mailto:exams@gars.org">exams@gars.org</a></p> <p><b>Third Saturday</b> VEC: W5YI 2 pm @ Barrow Co. Emerg. Serv. Bldg 66 McElroy Street Winder, GA 30680 Steve Donellan, N5SMD (404) 520-0368 E-mail: <a href="mailto:n5smd@comcast.net">n5smd@comcast.net</a></p> <p>(cont. next column)</p>	<p><b>November Results</b></p> <p>We had an excellent exam session on November 12. There were eight applicants and seven passed exams as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Three new Technician class;</li> <li>◆ One new General class (passed Technician and General exams);</li> <li>◆ Three upgrades to Amateur Extra class.</li> </ul> <p>Many thanks to the following VE's who made this session possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Sid Weaver, N4NQ (Co-CVE)</li> <li>◆ Bill Hawkins, WR1TR</li> <li>◆ Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC</li> <li>◆ Don Bagby, KK4NJM</li> <li>◆ Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN</li> <li>◆ Russ Prevost, KN4CGO</li> <li>◆ Frank Haynes, KV4SP</li> <li>◆ Dave Bruse, W4DTR (CVE)</li> <li>◆ Robert Pence, KM4AAP</li> <li>◆ Yolanda Pence, KM4AAQ</li> </ul> <p>73, <i>Chuck McCord</i>, KK4TKJ (Co-CVE)</p> <p>GARS VE Team Leaders E-mail: <a href="mailto:exams@gars.org">exams@gars.org</a></p> <p>GARS VE Website: <a href="https://groups.io/g/GARS-VE-Team">https://groups.io/g/GARS-VE-Team</a></p> <p><b>Fourth Tuesday</b> ARRL VEC 7 pm @ United Way Service Center 6279 Fairburn Rd., Douglasville Jessie Clower, KB4WFK (770) 942-6466</p> <p><b>Fourth Sunday</b> 2:30 pm Georgia Tech VanLeer Elec. Building Rm. W218, 777 Atlantic Dr. For more information go to <a href="http://www.w4aql.com">www.w4aql.com</a> and click on "Test Sessions"</p>	<p><b>First Tuesday</b> Kennehoochee ARC Downtown Marietta Fire Station #1, Training Room 112 Haynes Street Marietta, Georgia 30060 Meeting begins at 7:00pm Talk In 146.880(-)</p> <p><b>First Thursday</b> Atlanta Radio Club Georgia Red Cross HQ 1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta Meeting is at 7:30pm Talk In -146.820(-)</p> <p>N.E. Georgia ARC Commerce Public Library 1344 South Broad Street, Commerce Meeting is at 6:30pm Talk In - 147.225(+), PL 123.0</p> <p><b>Second Monday</b> Georgia Tech ARC Room W218 Van Leer Electrical Engineering Bldg. Georgia Tech Campus Meeting at 7:00pm</p> <p><b>Second Thursday</b> Alford Memorial Radio Club Annistown Road Baptist Church Annistown Rd &amp; Spain Rd Stone Mountain Dinner at 6:00pm, Meeting at 7:30pm Talk In - 146.760(-)</p> <p><b>Second Saturday</b> North GA QRP Club Board Room of The Shepherd Center 2020 Peachtree Rd, NW, Atlanta at 10:00 AM</p> <p><b>Third Tuesday</b> North Fulton Amateur Radio League Alpharetta Recreation &amp; Parks Dept Alpharetta Adult Activity Center 13450 Cogburn Road Alpharetta, GA 30004 meeting at 7:30pm Talk In - 145.47(-)</p> <p>For more information, go to: <a href="http://www.gars.org/">http://www.gars.org/</a></p>



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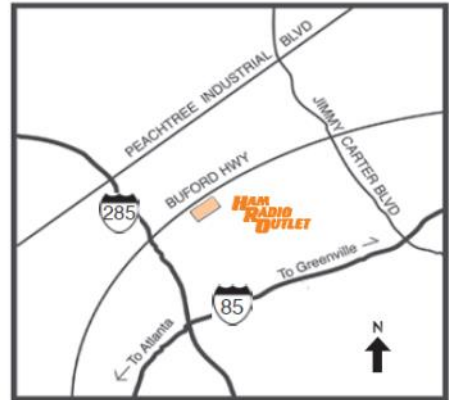


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